

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

IN THE MATTER OF THE REQUEST OF RED) RIVER RURAL TELEPHONE ASSOCIATION) DBA RED RIVER COMMUNICATIONS FOR) CERTIFICATION REGARDING ITS USE OF) FEDERAL UNIVERSAL SERVICE SUPPORT) (STUDY AREA: 381631))	ORDER GRANTING WAIVER OF ARSD 20:10:32:56 AND GRANTING CERTIFICATION TC18-019
---	---

On May 30, 2018, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a filing from Red River Rural Telephone Association dba Red River Communications (Company) regarding its request for certification regarding its use of federal universal support. The purpose of this filing was to provide information constituting the Company's plan for the use of its federal universal service support and to otherwise verify that the Company will use all federal universal service support received in a manner that is consistent with the federal universal service provisions of 47 U.S.C. § 254. Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.314(a), in order for an eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) to receive support pursuant to the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC's) high-cost program, a state must file an annual certification with the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) and the FCC stating that all federal high-cost support provided to the ETC "was used in the preceding calendar year and will be used in the coming calendar year only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended." The Company also requested a waiver of the Commission's filing requirements pursuant to ARSD 20:10:32:56 on grounds that the Company has one voice subscriber in South Dakota and the certification process is unduly burdensome and unnecessary.

On May 31, 2018, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of June 15, 2018, to interested individuals and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. No parties sought intervention. On June 20, 2018, the Company responded to Commission staff's data request and agreed to submit copies of certification notices from North Dakota and Minnesota.

At its regularly scheduled meeting of June 26, 2018, the Commission considered this matter. The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-31 and 47 U.S.C. § 254. The Commission unanimously voted to grant a five-year waiver pursuant to ARSD 20:10:32:56. The Commission also unanimously voted to approve the Company's request for certification. The Commission finds that the Company is eligible to receive federal support. The Commission finds that all federal high-cost support provided to the Company was used in the preceding calendar year and will be used in the coming calendar year only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended. It is therefore

ORDERED, that a five-year waiver pursuant to ARSD 20:10:32:56 is hereby granted. It is further

ORDERED, that the Company is eligible to receive federal support as all federal high-cost support provided to the Company was used in the preceding calendar year and will be used in the coming calendar year only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended. It is further

ORDERED, that the Commission approves the Company's request for certification.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 5th day of July 2018.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that this document has been served today upon all parties of record in this docket, as listed on the docket service list, electronically or by mail.

By: Karen E. Bremer

Date: 07/05/18

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Kristie Fiegen

KRISTIE FIEGEN, Chairperson

Gary Hanson

GARY HANSON, Commissioner

Chris Nelson

CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner